

Hi PARENTS- 😊

What a wonderful start to the school year! We have had a busy week getting to know one another and starting to settle into a bit of a routine. These first few weeks will be focused on REVIEW as well as introducing each curricular area and expectations. We will go over this in more detail at the **Parent OPEN HOUSE on Wednesday 8/27 5:30-7pm**, but for now, here is a SNAPSHOT of this past week:

HOMEWORK Folder: Starting next week, Monday, this will go home daily. Please make sure your child returns it to school each day.

MEMORY VERSE: At the start of each week, we will introduce a new bible verse for the week. This bible verse will be written, read, and said in class daily all week. Every Monday, we will have 'Memory Verse Monday'. This will be the day that your 4th/5th grader will be "tested" and say their bible verse to me from memory. Please practice this verse at home and have your child practice saying it to you from memory. Memory verse will be kept in their Homework Folder for daily review/practice.

SPELLING: Each Friday, we will send home a new list of spelling words and a spelling worksheet for your child to work on for the following week. Please keep the spelling list kept in their homework folder for daily review. **The spelling worksheet should be completed and returned to school anytime throughout the week but must be returned no later than Friday of each week.** We will be doing many activities throughout the week which review and practice the spelling words. **SPELLING TEST:** Each Friday, we will take a spelling test on the words worked on throughout the week.

USE of Class BOOKS- Friday a few friends had the opportunity to select a book to 'borrow' from the class. Those that didn't get the opportunity to choose a book, will do this on Monday. **PLEASE HAVE YOUR STUDENT KEEP THE BOOK IN HIS/HER BACKPACK** so s/he may read it either at home or at school. Thank you! 😊

HOMEWORK: We will go over this in more detail on Wednesday at the Parent Open House. In general, your student will have plenty of time to complete their work in class. On occasion, when time to complete an activity/work is cut short- we will resume the topic and activity the next day to complete.

*** If this is a concept that is trickier for him/her to complete, it will be sent home to finish and return the following day.**

*** If there is a concept that your student needs more help with understanding, I will make sure to assign activities to be worked on at home and returned for review.**

*** Unit or Chapter review practice for tests.**

*** SPECIAL projects- Book Reviews/Reports or designated class projects. You will be given content and timeframe each review/report or project needs to be completed by.**

School Policy on HOMEWORK: pg. 20 of the BIA Student/Parent Handbook states: Generally speaking, Bethesda expects students to spend approx. 15 min. per grade in outside work. While these guidelines are not hard and fast, **THEY SHOULD BE USED AS A GUIDE.** Most often time spent on homework, may be less, and occasionally more depending on class or subject circumstances.

4th Grade: 1 hour

5th Grade: 1hr.15 min.

DAILY HOMEWORK:

***Practice Bible Memory verse**

***SPELLING words**

***READ! Whether it be a class assignment, or a book for book review/report.**

✨Classroom Community Incentive: "Magic Stones"

Our class is working together each day to build positive habits and a strong classroom community through our "Magic Stones" incentive. Students can earn magic stones for:

- ✓ Listening and following directions the first time
- ✓ Staying focused and working quietly
- ✓ Respecting the teacher by not interrupting
- ✓ Practicing mindfulness
- ✓ Helping others
- ✓ Taking care of their space without reminders

When a student earns a magic stone, they add it to our class jar. Once the jar is full, the class will celebrate with a special themed day (pajama day, sports day, game day, etc.) that they choose together.

This incentive helps students take responsibility for their actions, encourages teamwork, and builds excitement as we work toward a common goal. We're already seeing great effort and enthusiasm! 😊 STAY TUNED! Our jar is almost full!!

Topics we discussed this week:

MATH: Review of concepts from previous year. We will continue this next week.

SCIENCE: What IS Science?? What does a Scientist do? OBSERVE, INVESTIGATE, PREDICT.

READING to Discover:

***EMOJIS-** WHO invented them? WHEN were they invented? WHY were they invented? HOW have they changed since invention?

READING for Comprehension. We read passages and answered questions for comprehension .

ART: Zentangle Art- look for more info soon!

MORNING MEETING: Each morning, when your student arrives, we have morning meeting work which is a great way to engage the students and get discussion flowing:

- ✓ VOCAB Word of the Day and its meaning.
- ✓ JOKE of the Day

- ✓ FUN FACT of the Day
- ✓ PUZZLE of the Day
- ✓ QUESTION of the Day
- ✓ ADVICE of the Day

PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION:

Open Communication is SO important!

Please feel free to message me, via email, with questions, concerns, and quick notes about changes in your child's drop off/pick up schedule (make sure the office is copied in this too!) etc... I try to check emails throughout the day and will respond ASAP. The school day is very busy- oftentimes I may not see an email until after school.

NOTE: If it is something important I need to know before school starts for the day, please make sure to send before 8am.

Weekly 📷:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/ENgZse4ALWJSY8686>

I am looking forward to learning and growing with your student this year! See you Wednesday evening for the Parent Open House. (Stay tuned for more details)

In Christ,
Mrs.Blackfeather